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NPIC/TSSG/RED/SDB-018-70

19 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC

THROUGH : Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG/NPIC

SUBJECT : Twin Stage On-Line PI Comparator

REFERENCE : Speed Letter from Chief, PFBS, dated 20 February 1970,
Same Subject

25X1

1. The prototype Twin Stage On-Line PI Comparator (TSC), developed by the [] under a firm, fixed price contract, was delivered to TSSG/ESD on 22 October 1969, seven days beyond the contract delivery date. Prior to delivery a thorough pre-acceptance test was performed at the contractor's plant by ESD personnel and the project monitor. This was followed by the same test procedure upon installation in ESD, and the test results indicated that the instrument met the technical objectives as defined in the contract.

2. Additional tests and evaluations were performed on the TSC during November and December 1969 by ESD along with limited operational evaluation by IAS and PHD. During this detailed testing it was disclosed that there were control problems with the joystick when operated in the slow, fine pointing mode of operation. This was apparent only after special jigs had been fabricated by ESD to enable them to check the detailed characteristics of the instrument. The contractor could possibly be held contractually responsible for correcting the slow speed control of the joystick; but the operational users have already strongly indicated their position that they want handwheel controls for the fine pointing along with the retention of the joystick for medium-fine and coarse, rapid movement of the film stages--the current joystick serves this purpose. However, the contract contains no provision for stage control movement other than by the joystick. The addition of handwheels constitutes a definite change-in-scope to the original contract and will require additional funding.

3. The fact that the final Contract Inspection Report was not submitted until 30 January 1970 had nothing to do with sign-off and acceptance of the TSC, but was due to a malfunction of a card punch coupler purchased by DIA under the same contract. This had to be rectified before the contract could be considered complete. Further, it is normally not practical on fixed price contracts to force a contractor to wait for payment much more than 30 days after delivery of an instrument without this contingency being covered by some specific provision in the contract.

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4. It is felt that the contractor met the development objectives as written and that the instrument performed within the letter of the contract. However, the detailed T&E, as performed by ESD, rightfully goes beyond the scope of the development objectives (under which the contractor performed); since, they are trying to determine total equipment performance. One solution to this may be for ESD, where feasible, to prepare in advance the test parameters to be accomplished and use this as the pre-acceptance and acceptance criteria. This, however, is a "grey-area"; development objectives are just that--objectives. We must have an almost successful prototype before we can write definitive specifications.

5. In order to satisfy the requirements of IAS, the operational group which will use this instrument, the Research and Engineering Division is requesting a proposal from [] to modify the TSC to use handwheels for fine positioning and to retain the joystick for medium-fine and coarse movements of the film stages.

[]
Deputy Chief, Systems Development Branch,
RED/TSSG

Distribution:

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